be introduced in 1992 in Gangapur-Hindon-Karoli Towns of Rajasthan has not yet been started; and

(f) whether the expansion of telephone services is allowed on political considerations and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The telephone services in the country is considered good and is on par or better than many developing countries in the world. No State has service comparable to advanced countries like U.S.A. or Japan.

(b) The expansion of telephone services in a particular State is subject to the extent of registered demand. There is an overall shortage of equipment. Available equipment is allotted roughly in proportion to the registered demand.

(c) The provision of STD facility to sub-divisional headquarters and tehsil head-quarters all over the country have been given priority during the Eighth Plan. All tehsil headquarters in Uttar Pradesh have not been connected with STD facilities.

(d) The communication services in Rajasthan are not lacking and are satisfac tory.

(e) The STD services at Gangapur-Hindon-Karoli could not be started during 1992 as these exchanges were of manual type. However, STD facilities have since been provided at Gangapur City and Karoli on 22-1-93 and 21-2-93 respectively. Hindon is likely to be provided STD faci lity by 31-3-93.

(f) No, Sir.

Rules tor Publications of Telephone Director

1592. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the rules regarding publication of a telephone directory;

(b) whether these rules and norms are not followed in Gujarat while publishing telephone directory; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons theietur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, Telephone Directories in English are published Secondary Switching Area-wise once in a year. These are also published in Hindi and Regional Languages when there is a reasonable demand for the same, which should normally be about 15% of the total requirement of telephone directories.

(b) and (c) The rules and norms have been followed with regard to publication of telephone directory in Gujarat. However, in some cases, the publication has been delayed due to procedural difficulties in finalising the tenders, award of contracts and due to delay on the part of the contractors.

गुजरात और उत्तर प्रदेश में डाक वितरण व्यवस्था की खराब स्थिति

1593. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी :**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :–

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि गुजरात और उत्तर प्रदेश के कुछ स्थानों पर डाक वितरण व्यवस्था खराब हो गयी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) इन स्थानों पर डाक सेवा में सुधार करने हेतु सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) और (ख) उत्तर प्रदेश में डाक वितरण व्यवस्था में कोई गिरावट नहीं आई है। तथापि, गुजरात में बड़े शहरों/कस्बों के बाह्य क्षेत्रों में नई कालोनियों के निर्माण में यदा कदा इस संबंध में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं।